

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: REMARKS BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER DIEFENBAKER

IN SAINT JOHNS

1. FORMER PRIME MINISTER JOHN DIEFENBAKER PAID A VISIT TO SAINT JOHN ,NEW BRUNSWICK ON JULY 30 DURING THE COURSE OF WHICH HE GRANTED AN AIRPORT INTERVIEW WHICH IN PART WAS CARRIED BY CANADIAN PRESS.

2. DIEFENBAKER SAID THAT THE TRUDEAU HANDLING OF THE TAIWANESE OLYMPIC DISPUTE NOT ONLY UNDERMINED THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT BUT DID MORE TO HARM CANADA S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION THAN ANYTHING THAT HAS BEEN DONE IN YEARS. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT S ACTION WAS PARALLEL TO THE ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE 1936 OLYMPICS WHEN HITLER WAS PREPARING TO BAN BLACKS AND JEWS.

3. DIEFENBAKER STOPPED SHORT OF SAYING THAT THIS ACTION BY TRUDEAU WAS HIS GREATEST INTERNATIONAL BLUNDER, SAYING, I WOULDN T SAY IT WAS THE OUTSTANDING FAUX PAS OF THE TRUDEAU ADMINISTRATION. IT HAS AN OUTSTANDING RECORD OF BLUNDERS . HE SAID THAT HE HAD NEVER KNOWN SUCH CANOODLING INTERNATIONALLY AS WHEN MR TRUDEAU VISITED CUBA DURING THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR WHILE 10,000 CUBAN

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TROOPS WERE FIGHTING IN THE AFRICAN COUNTRY AGAINST

FREE-WORLD FORCES.

HE SAID THE CUBAN INCIDENT, COUPLED WITH REMARKS MADE IN MOSCOW BY MR TRUDEAU ABOUT THE UNITED STATES, HAD TARNISHED CANADA S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. DIEFENBAKER SAID THE FREE WORLD WAS CONCERNED AFTER MR TRUDEAU SAID IN MOSCOS, WHEN ASKED HOW HE FELT ABOUT THE UNITED STATES, THAT CANADA NOT ONLY FEARED THE UNITED STATES ECONOMICALLY AND CULTURALLY, BUT ALSO MILITARILY.

4 (A) PARA 4 LINE 5 SECOND WOD SHOULD BE MOSCOW AND NOT MOSCOS.

5. WITH REGARD TO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT DIEFENBAKER SAID THAT CRIMES SUCH AS TREASON AND REBELLION SHOULD STILL CARRY THE PENALTY OF DEATH AND THAT THERE IS A GREAT DANGER THAT PRISONERS NOW FACING LONG PRISON TERMS WILL LOSE HOPE AND DECLARE OPEN SEASON ON PRISON GUARDS.

6. WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF CANADA ABANDONING THE CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY IN FAVOR OF BECOMING A REPUBLIC, HE SAID THAT CANADA AS A REPUBLIC WOULDN T LAST AND COULDN T HAVE LASTED UNTIL THIS DAY. WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABSORBED BY THE UNITED STATES.

7. WITH REGARD TO THE QUEEN S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES DIEFENBAKER SAID THAT MANY AMERICANS WISH THEY STILL HAD A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY AND IF THEY HAD, WATERGATE WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED .

8. DIEFENBAKER CAME TO NEW BRUNSWICK ON A FISHING TRIP AND OVER THE WEEKEND CAUGHT A 19 POUND SALMON, ALLEGEDLY THE LARGEST FISH OF ANY SPECIES EVER CAUGHT BY THE 81-YEAR-OLD POLITICIAN.
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